



EXHIBIT 8
DATE 2-7-2011
HB 290

Skyline Sportsmen's Association, Inc.

Box 173

Butte, Montana 59703

February 3, 2011

Rep. Vance Gordon, Chairman
Members House Transportation Committee

Because of time restraints at yesterday's hearing, I was not able to give all my testimony.

There are some instances where our groups helped on road closure issues in these counties. If H.B. 290 were in place, it certainly would have made the process much easier.

Jefferson County - Bill Carlson couldn't take his livestock to their summer pasture because a would be outfitter and his son had barricaded the road. Cabin owners couldn't reach their cabins.

Silver Bow County - New homeowner from Florida barricaded the road because she didn't like all the traffic. Rancher Charlie Andrus couldn't reach his cattle's upper pastures. Ten years earlier, a man was shot and killed because he tried to block road.

Beaverhead County - Hank Williams Jr. barricaded a county road. Two elderly ranchers had to obtain a key to the lock to reach their property. Our group researched the road and testified before county commissioners.

Silver Bow County - Would be outfitter barricaded road leading to Mount Haggin Game Range and forest service lands.

Silver Bow County - Rep. Jon Sesso described Highland road closure an armed guard.

Madison County - Testified before commissioners on electric wires on bridges on county roads. Both bridges (fords) were old stage coach routes between Virginia City and Bannack, Helena and Salt Lake City.

Silver Bow County - Would be developer barricaded road behind Fairmont Hot Springs leading to Mount Haggin Game Range and forest service lands.

Silver Bow County - I gave my testimony on frontage road leading to six long time property owners - I lived there for forty plus years.

All of us pay gas taxes, county, state and federal taxes. Part of these taxes go toward salaries of elected officials, as well as county workers, such as county road foremen. Most county road foremen retired or working know which roads have been maintained by the county.

Finding out if a road has been used by the public and if public monies were used to maintain them isn't the boogy man process that the opponents are implying. Please vote yes on H.B. 290. Allow a process that would help all Montanans.

Thanks


Sincerely
Tony Schoonen
Director